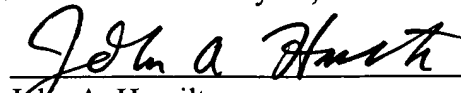


CERTIFICATE OF MAILING

I hereby certify that this correspondence is being deposited with the United States Postal Service as first class mail in an envelope addressed to: Mail Stop Amendment, Commissioner for Patents, P.O. Box 1450, Alexandria, VA 22313-1450 on January 18, 2005.


John A. Hamilton
Reg. No. 48,946

IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

Applicants:	Daniele CASALINI	Examiner:	C. M. KEEHAN
Serial No:	09/621,788	Group Art Unit:	1712
Filed:	July 21, 2000	Confirm. No.:	4984
Title:	SURFACE-COATED HARD MATERIAL, PRODUCTION METHOD FOR THIS, AND USE OF THE SAME		

PERKINS SMITH & COHEN LLP
One Beacon Street
Boston, MA 02108
(617) 854-4000

To: Mail Stop Amendment
Commissioner for Patents
P.O. Box 1450
Alexandria, VA 22313-1450

Response (I) to Office Action Under Action Under 37 CFR §1.113

Sir:

This amendment is made in response to the non-final Office Action dated August 17, 20043, in the above-captioned U.S. patent application. This amendment is accompanied by a petition for a two-month extension of time and a check in the amount of \$450.00 covering the associated fees for the extension. Any other fees required for consideration of this amendment are authorized to be charged to our Deposit Account No. 03-2410, Order No. 12707-P03.

Claims 1, 3, 4, 8, 10 and 11 are currently pending in the application. Through amendments and the Remarks that follow, the rejections of the claims are addressed and overcome.

Amendments to the claims begin on page 2 of this paper.

Remarks begin on page 4.